

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please replace the first paragraph immediately following the title and before section 1 entitled "Background of the Invention," with the following paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions for sustained release ~~comprising~~ containing as active ingredient an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. ~~-, said composition comprising~~ The sustained release pharmaceutical compositions contain an inner phase (internal) and an outer phase (external), wherein at least the outer phase ~~comprises~~ contains at least one matrix former.--